American Vegetable Grower

OCTOBER • 1955

- Bibb—The Aristocrat of Lettuce
- A Basic Problem for Grower-Canner Relations
- Marvin Thompson Had Berries—His Neighbors Didn't

Choose the RIGHT Cover Crop

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Double Power
Sulfate of Magnesium
Sulfate of Potash

When a housewife shops for vegetables, she buys on the basis of good color, firmness, good size and shape. And that goes for canners, glass-packers and freezers, too—quality commands top prices.

To get maximum profits, growers must aim for quality and high yields. You get both when you use a quality mixed fertilizer containing *Sul-Po-Mag*.

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Sul-Po-Mag is a balanced combination of *sulfate of magnesium* and *sulfate of potash*, both water-soluble and readily available to growing crops.

SULFATE OF MAGNESIUM—Promotes top yields and quality on magnesium-deficient soils. It helps your crops make more efficient use of *all* the other plant foods. The need for soluble magnesium is so widespread that it is often called *the fourth element in the fertilizer bag*.

SULFATE OF POTASH—A premium form of potash with a maximum chloride content of only 2.5%. That means you can safely make heavy applications of potash to increase yield and quality of chloride-sensitive vegetables.

Use a mixed fertilizer containing *Sul-Po-Mag* and see your profits go up. Ask your dealer for your favorite brand of quality mixed fertilizer in a grade containing soluble sulfate of magnesium and sulfate of potash from *Sul-Po-Mag* . . . it pays!

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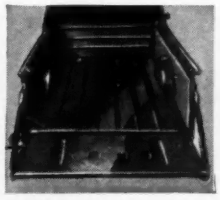
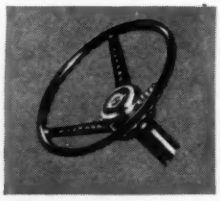
For instance, Ford now offers eig Short Stroke engines. Only Ford le you choose from a full line of seve Short Stroke Y-8's and a Short Stro Six, to suit power needs more exact Horsepower increases of up to 26 mean you get rolling faster, ha

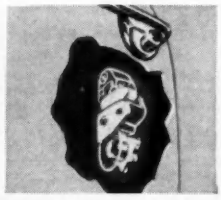
Only Ford gives you all these great truck features



NEW! 8-ft. ½-ton F-100 Express, suited for bulky loads. Also, popular 6½-ft. Pickup. GVW rating: 5,000 lbs.



NEW! Deep-center Lifeguard steering wheel protects driver from steering column. Only Ford has it! Standard all models.



NEW! Lifeguard door latches give added protection against doors jarring open on impact. A Ford safety exclusive!

NEW! 12-volt ele system for better ing, more reliab formance, g electrical reserv

more reserve
more time sav
The built-in
DRIVERIZED
windshields
makes work e
safety feature
steering wheel
you a measure
before availabl
New styling

Full-wrap *rear*
visibility, easier
maneuvering. Avai
cost. New wrap-
standard on all

New Ford Trucks for '56

han any other truck line!

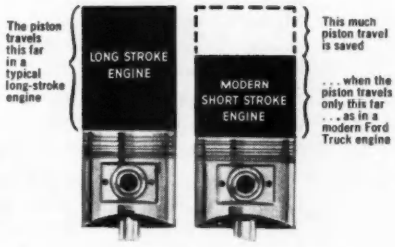
Powerful eyeful! Comparisons of all makes of trucks, based on horsepower and suggested list prices, show that Ford gives you more power for your money than any other truck line.

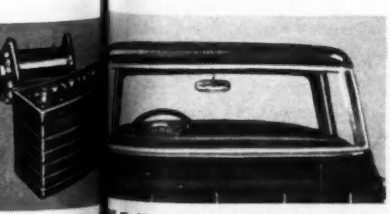
more reserve power, too. Result: more time saved, more work done.

The built-in convenience of new DRIVERIZED Cabs with full-wrap windshields cuts driving strain, makes work easier. New *exclusive* safety features such as Lifeguard steering wheel and door latches, give you a measure of protection never before available in any truck.

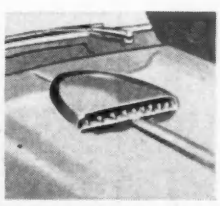
New styling . . . for duty, as well as beauty, stamps Ford Trucks with a new eye-catching "look of leadership." The new Ford Trucks for '56 are on display at your Ford Dealer's now!

Less piston travel means less friction. Less friction means less wear . . . longer engine life, greater gas savings. Today's trend is to Short Stroke power. Only Ford, has had over four years and *five billion miles* of experience with Short Stroke.

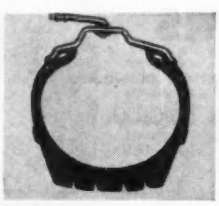

The piston travels this far in a typical long-stroke engine
LONG STROKE ENGINE
MODERN SHORT STROKE ENGINE
This much piston travel is saved
. . . when the piston travels only this far . . . as in a modern Ford Truck engine



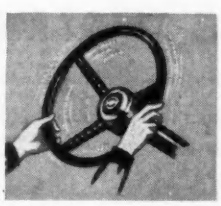
Full-wrap *rear* window for visibility, easier backing, parking, maneuvering. Available at slight cost. New wrap-around windshield standard on all Ford cabs.



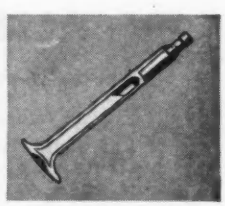
NEW! Hood air scoop, 4-barrel carburetor, and dual exhaust system available on Series 750 and up, for extra reserve power!



NEW! Tubeless tires run 25° cooler, give extra mileage, resist blowouts! Standard on every Ford Truck model for '56.



NEW! *Master-Guide* Power Steering now available on most Cab Forward BIG JOBS, as well as most conventional BIG JOBS.



NEW! Sodium-cooled exhaust valves in heavy-duty engines operate up to 225° cooler, last far longer!

Closest work is tractor-seat easy with the REAR-ENGINE Model G

Specialty farmers say there's nothing like the Model G.

You can eliminate a large part of your hand weeding and hoeing by putting a Model G rear-engine tractor to work in your operations. Clear visibility and a special creeper gear of ¾ mph make it easy to cultivate young plants early. You can work right up to the plant without fear of damage. A full range of working speeds up to 7 mph gives you flexibility for larger plants, spraying, tillage, hauling and other jobs.

One man becomes a crew — equal to eight or ten men with hand tools. Even inexperienced operators handle the Model G with ease, master high-production jobs quickly and safely. Your choice of 26 front-mounted, quickly attached tools is available.

The Model G can be set in to narrow 36-inch tread for working between rows of tall plants, or up to 64 inches for spanning multiple rows of narrow-spaced crops.

Besides all this, you get unmatched economy. The Model G operates on two to three quarts of fuel per hour on most jobs. You can save important money by owning a Model G. Call your Allis-Chalmers dealer for a free demonstration or mail this coupon.

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LETTERS
TO THE EDITOR

Harvesting Sweet Corn

Dear Editor:

The story in your last issue on how Arthur Smith has mechanized the harvesting and handling of sweet corn has inspired us all. On our own farm we have done very well with iced sweet corn, but after reading about Mr. Smith I know of many improvements we can make.

Clyde, Pa. J. B. Ernst

Dear Editor:

Can you tell me Arthur Smith's address as I would like to write him about his ingenious corn harvesting set-up.

Beloit, Wis. George Hanson

Write Mr. Smith at 1600 Alum Creek Dr., Columbus 7, Ohio.—Ed.

Celery Variety

Dear Editor:

That's good looking celery on the cover of your last issue. Can you tell me what variety?

Sanford, Fla. Ernest Wirdecker

It's a Corneli introduction known as Keystone No. 47. It is well suited to upland soils and mid-winter muck soils in Florida. —Ed.

Temperature Effects

Dear Editor:

You hit the nail on the head with your story in the August issue telling how temperature changes favor some vegetables and retard others. Hot July weather gave us a poor pepper crop as your story explained. It is interesting to learn through the pages of AMERICAN VEGETABLE GROWER why some crops turn out the way they do.

Grand Rapids, Mich. H. A. Henry

For Young Farmers

Dear Editor:

My sons, whom I am trying to interest in vegetable growing, got a big kick out of the story in your last issue about Alvin Hansen. Stories like this, well documented with facts and figures, do much to point out to our younger people the possibilities in growing vegetables. I feel that tremendous opportunities are available to those who have the ability to see them and the patience to develop them.

St. Louis, Mo. G. L. Gildersleeve

The story about Alvin Hansen told how he was selected as one of the nation's four outstanding Young Farmers of 1955, after increasing the value of his cucumber farm from $40,000 in 1946 to $250,000 today.—Ed.

Helpful Ideas

Dear Editor:

I've been raising tomatoes and other truck crops to sell at my roadside stand. There's quite a bit of competition in my locality so I've been wanting to do something extra to attract customers to my stand. Thanks to your good magazine I've gotten some new ideas on display packages to show off my produce. I want you to know what a big help AMERICAN VEGETABLE GROWER has been in keeping me up-to-date on all the latest in vegetable growing and marketing.

Perry, Ohio. M. A. Allen

Harvesting Bibb lettuce at J. W. Davis Company Greenhouse, Terre Haute, Ind., largest commercial producer of Bibb. The brittle heads are carefully cut and packed in 12-quart shipping baskets right in the beds.

BIBB . . .

The Aristocrat of Lettuce

Commercial growers—particularly greenhouse growers—are really getting excited about this old but new salad crop now that the "bugs" in handling are being eliminated

By ELDON S. BANTA

FOR over a half century Bibb lettuce has been esteemed by discerning home gardeners. Now, through better cultural methods and improved marketing practices, this delicious salad crop is commanding the interest of commercial growers.

Bibb lettuce has been grown for over 100 years in this country, and possibly longer in England, though it was not then known as Bibb. The name stems from its originator in this country, a Major John Bibb, of Kentucky, who fought in the War of 1812. He experimented with plants of many kinds, among them being the unusual lettuce the Bibb family had brought with them to Kentucky from Virginia. Around 1850 he made a variety selection of it and began giving seed and plants to friends and neighbors. It became known as the lettuce from Bibb, or Bibb lettuce.

The original Bibb plants were probably from a very old variety of cottage lettuce commonly grown in England. Botanically, it is a cabbage type of head lettuce, similar to Big Boston and other butterhead varieties. Its delicious flavor is one of its great characteristics.

Gus Dreisbach, at his Jefferson Greenhouse Company in Lyndon, Ky., is credited with the first commercial Bibb production. He has for some 20 years grown two to three acres under glass, and supplies a select hotel and restaurant trade in Louisville and Chicago.

Perhaps the largest grower of Bibb at present is the J. W. Davis Company greenhouse plant at Terre Haute, Ind. This plant is under the able and skillful management of O. Keith Owen, Sr., and O. Keith Owen, Jr. Through successive plantings last season they grew on 1¼ acres the equivalent of 16 acres of Bibb. During the current season 19 acres are planned. In their first season, 1951-52, the Owens harvested from a half acre some 40,000 pounds. This actually represented two acres since successive plantings were made. Last year yields ranged around 5,000 five-pound baskets per acre. It is possible

(*Continued on page* 14)

An excellent bed of Bibb lettuce growing in Davis Company greenhouse. It takes from 2 to 3 months from seeding to first harvest; successive crops are planted.

Choose the Right COVER CROP

Insure high soil productivity in today's intensive use of vegetable acreages by annual replacement of soil organic matter

By M. T. VITTUM
New York State Agricultural Experiment Station

THE advantages of organic matter in the soil are well-known. A good supply of actively decaying organic matter maintains good physical condition of the soil, which permits better aeration, drainage, and earlier plowing.

Thus, a vegetable grower with a well-drained soil high in organic matter can plant early in the spring and obtain the price advantages of early crops on the local market. When hot, dry weather arrives, the organic matter in the soil acts as a sponge which holds and conserves water so that the crops do not suffer as much from drought as those growing on similar soils with smaller amounts of organic matter.

The big problem with most vegetable growers is maintaining or increasing this supply of organic matter in the soil. Under present vegetable production systems, most growers do not have livestock on their farms, to supply the manure which is an excellent source of organic matter. Also, because they do not have livestock, they have no need for large acreages of grass and legume hay crops which, when plowed under, always furnish large amounts of organic matter. Most market growers and many processing crop growers have arrived at a point where they must depend on crop residues and cover crops as the chief sources of organic matter for their fields.

Maximum yields of marketable produce usually leave maximum volumes of crop residues in the field as a by-product of the crop "manufacturing" operation. Thus, each grower should insure maximum production by use of adequate amounts of plant food, proper varieties, adequate water, and sufficient plants on each acre or field to make the best use of these other factors.

This system will mean high production of vegetables per acre, with a corresponding low cost per unit produced, while maximum volume of residues, such as corn stalks, tomato vines, etc., will be produced to be plowed under for the next crop. However, crop residues alone will not replenish the organic matter oxidized or "burned" by the soil while producing a crop. Thus, in intensive vegetable rotations where a large proportion of the acreage is plowed and cultivated each year, soil organic matter tends to decline because annual additions do not replace annual losses.

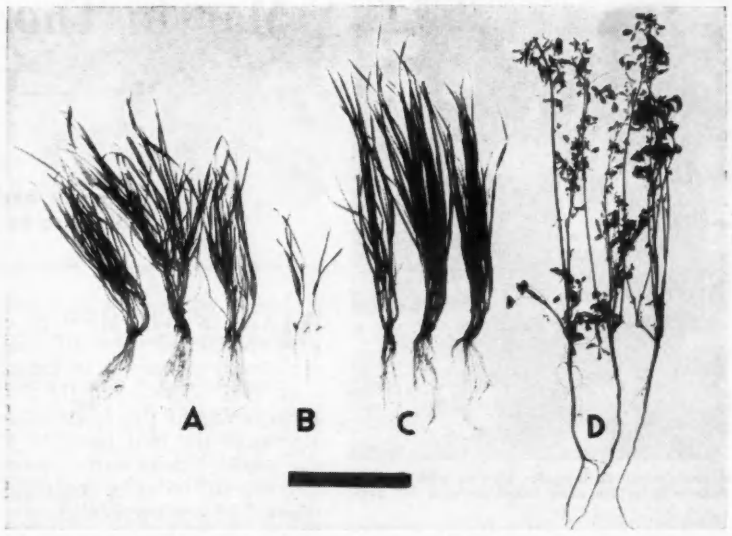
One of the best ways to combat this decrease in soil organic matter is to plant cover crops. Many excellent cover crops are available, and each grower must select from these various crops the ones which are best suited to his particular conditions. These cover crops may be divided into three general groups: a) those seeded in the spring; b) those seeded during the summer growing season; and c) those seeded in the fall.

For spring seeding, in drilled crops such as peas or oats, we normally recommend legumes such as alfalfa, sweet clover, and mammoth red clover. In recent years large supplies of nonhardy alfalfa seed of southern origin have come on the market at very reasonable prices. Most growers will find that this nonhardy alfalfa is an excellent crop for spring seeding because it produces the typical deep tap root which tends to penetrate the subsoil and open up channels which greatly improve drainage and aeration of the soil. It also grows

Ryegrass seeded at last cultivation in non-irrigated tomatoes. With normal dry weather it germinated and grew slowly so that pickers had no trouble finding the fruit in late September. (Photographed Sept. 25, 1952.)

When ryegrass was seeded at last cultivation in irrigated tomatoes, growth was so rapid that by mid-September pickers could not find the fruit. (Photographed Sept. 25, 1952.)

Domestic ryegrass was seeded immediately after last cultivation the previous summer (1947) in sweet corn plot at right. Plot at left was not seeded. When photographed on May 20, 1948, ryegrass was ready to be plowed under.



Root systems of various cover crops seeded in or following tomatoes in 1952. A) field bromegrass; B) rye; C) domestic ryegrass; D) nonhardy alfalfa. Note deep tap roots of nonhardy alfalfa. A, C, and D were seeded July 25, immediately after last cultivation, while B was seeded October 13 after tomatoes had been disked up. (Photographed Nov. 24, 1952.)

very rapidly during the summer, so that when plowed under the following spring large amounts of organic matter are added to the soil. Sweet clover and alfalfa are similar in effects to this nonhardy alfalfa. Red, mammoth red, and ladino clovers furnish the organic matter, but do not have the deep tap root feature of alfalfa.

Many grass species may be used for seeding in cultivated row crops such as sweet corn, cabbage, tomatoes, and beans at the last cultivation, or two to three weeks thereafter. Of the many grasses which are available, domestic ryegrass and field bromegrass seem best for cover crops. Both of these grasses make rapid growth after seeding in July or August. They give excellent protection against erosion in the fall and winter, and absorb large amounts of nitrogen, phosphorus, potash, calcium, magnesium, and other elements to protect these against loss by leaching. In the spring when these grasses are plowed under, using supplemental nitrogen to assist in their decay, they rot in the soil and gradually release their stored nutrients for the following cash crop.

For fall seeding after the cash crop has been harvested, most of the winter grains qualify as possible cover crops. Rye is probably the most common, although winter wheat, winter oats, and winter barley are also used. These crops make rapid growth in late fall and early winter and give excellent protection against soil erosion. At the same time they store surplus plant nutrients in their tissue and thus prevent loss by leaching.

In some cases, when the spring is too wet to allow plowing at the normal time, these winter grains are likely to grow so rapidly that they should be mowed to prevent or retard heading out of the grain. As with the summer-seeded grasses, extra nitrogen should be applied just before plowing to insure rapid decomposition of the raw organic matter. The bacteria which rot or decompose plowed-under organic matter need nitrogen just as crop plants do. If extra nitrogen is not applied, these bacteria will take available nitrogen from the soil at the expense of the cash crop. In most situations, 40 to 60 pounds of actual nitrogen should be applied per acre. This amount of nitrogen would be supplied by 200 to 300 pounds of cyanamid or ammonium sulfate, or by 120 to 180 pounds of ammonium nitrate.

Under our present methods of vegetable production, most growers must seriously consider the use of cover crops for erosion control, addition of organic matter, and the conservation of plant nutrients in the soil to maintain productivity. THE END

Ryegrass seeded in red kidney beans following last cultivation in 1952, photographed May 6, 1953. Bean puller destroyed cover crop in rows, but excellent stand of ryegrass survived in the middles to give winter erosion protection.

Nonhardy alfalfa seeded with peas in 1952 proved to be winter-hardy through winter. Note deep tap root and large volume of top new growth. Photographed May 6, 1953, just before plowing under.

Marvin Thompson Had Berries —His Neighbors Didn't

Marvin had plants to sell too—all because he irrigated his berry field

Marvin Thompson irrigates berries with Pomona deep well turbine pump which delivers 150 gpm.

Water from pump flows into this drainage ditch which bisects strawberry field.

Marvin also uses portable Marlow irrigation pump which delivers 300 gpm.

Irrigating five-year-old strawberry field.

MARVIN THOMPSON can be considered one of the best strawberry growers in Arkansas.

In 1947 Marvin bought a 15-acre farm north of the town of Searcy. It wasn't the best piece of land in the world, but he wanted to make it into one of the most productive. He planted 10 acres to Blakemore strawberries, and the remainder to vegetables for local market. In two years, he was grossing more than $1,000 per acre from his strawberries.

There are three keys to Marvin's success with berries. He is careful to keep diseases and insects under control. His berry fields get the best fertility and cultural treatments he knows. Most important of all, he provides irrigation when needed. The past two years have proved to Marvin the value of irrigation. Many of his neighbors went out of business because of drought.

Builds System in Three Years

Marvin started preparing for irrigation in 1951. For $400 he drilled a well 160 feet deep. A 6-inch casing was put down only 22 feet as the rest of the way was solid rock. He was fortunate in getting water, in fact an artesian well. This was all the money Marvin could put in the venture for one year.

The next year, 1952, he installed a deep well turbine pump, but still couldn't afford pipe and sprinklers. He did a little furrow watering that year which helped considerably. Then in 1953 he put $1,300 in a portable centrifugal pump (Marlow), aluminum pipe (Reynolds), and sprinklers (Rain Bird). He was then ready and equipped to irrigate every acre he owned, and the season proved its necessity.

An open ditch carries water from the well to the berry fields, a distance of a few hundred feet, emptying into a larger drainage ditch which divides the berry fields. When irrigating, Marvin dams up the ditch, thus making it a reservoir, holding the water being pumped from the well. A 300-gallon per minute portable pump delivers the water from the ditch to the pipes extending across the berry field.

A minimum of pipe is used, at most 560 feet of 3-inch portable aluminum in 40-foot lengths. From 8 to 15 Rain Bird No. 40 sprinklers are used, depending upon the length of lateral in use. Lateral moves are made every 60 feet. Marvin tries to cover about a half acre per setting.

In 1953 Marvin made 6 one-inch applications at 10-day intervals. His last application went on in early September, but he quit too soon. Dry weather continued right through fall, and Marvin feels that two or three more waterings could have made him at least a thousand more dollars.

Irrigation was so successful in bringing plants through the dry weather that Marvin was able to sell a half million plants from his fields and still come through with a good crop for 1954. He did this when neighboring growers were hard put to pick more than 15 or 20 crates per acre. Yet Marvin sold plants and still picked 150 crates per acre at $8 per crate the next year.

In order for water to do its most you must have fertile soil. Marvin takes care of this too. In new plantings he puts on 300 pounds per acre of 5-10-5 at setting. Then two more applications of this rate are made, one in June and another in September. Established plantings receive about 1,000 pounds per acre of the same analysis, half going on in January and half in June.

Dusts to Control Rot

Last season Marvin used a captan* dust on three acres for the control of fruit rot. He feels this made him several hundred dollars because fruit did not rot in the field or spoil after packed. He applied between 40 to 50 pounds of dust per acre in each of five applications made at weekly intervals between bloom and harvest.

Marvin Thompson has done a lot to raise the productiveness of his farm. But as he says, "I've got a long way to go yet before I make that 300 crates per acre."—*E. S. Banta.*

* Captan is prepared in two formulations, ORTHOCIDE 50 W, made by California Spray-Chemical Corp., Richmond, Calif., and STAUFFER CAPTAN, made by Stauffer Chemical Company, 380 Madison Ave., New York 17, N. Y.

STATE NEWS

- **North Carolina Sweetpotato Damage May Reach $3 Million**
- **Oregon Has New Horticulture Department Head**

Hurricanes Hit Sweetpotato Crops

NORTH CAROLINA—Losses to sweetpotato growers due to Hurricanes Connie and Diane have been estimated officially at $1,213,500 in 17 storm-hit eastern counties. Hardest hit were Carteret and Pamlico counties, where 1,000 or more acres were covered by extremely high tides.

Following the hurricanes, sweetpotato producing areas received unusually high rainfall with some areas getting as much as 8 or 9 inches. Many potatoes are rotting in the ground. It is unofficially estimated that the total damage may run as high as $3 million.

Growers of early Irish potatoes finished their season with the highest average yield per acre on record, 270 bushels. H. C. Ferebee and Sons, Camden, averaged 244 hundred-pound bags of U.S. No. 1, Size A potatoes per acre. They planted 160 acres to Sebago, Cobbler, Essex, White Cloud, Sheridan, Dazoc, and La-Soda varieties. Besides being good growers, they do an excellent job of harvesting, grading, washing, and handling their crop. —*H. F. Covington, Ext. Veg. Crops Specialist, Raleigh.*

Heads Horticulture Department

OREGON—A new head of horticulture has been appointed at Oregon State College. He is Dr. Spencer B. Apple, who joined the OSC staff in 1950 with teaching and research duties primarily in the field of vegetable crops.

Spencer B. Apple

Apple succeeds Henry Hartman, who has reached retirement age. Hartman, who started his career at OSC in 1919, will continue on the staff in a teaching capacity.

The new department head is a graduate of Texas A & M and Washington State College. He taught at Texas A & M for nine years and was on the Michigan State College staff for three years. His work in Oregon has centered around production and handling problems of vegetable crops.

Harry Hartman

Hartman was honored last December by the Oregon state Horticultural Society for his achievements. He was named first recipient of the Hartman Cup, a revolving trophy established by the society for annual recognition to a grower or professional worker.

New Lettuce Variety

MICHIGAN—A new leaf lettuce has been developed which combines the good features of the Grand Rapids and Bibb varieties. Developed by Michigan State University horticulturist S. H. Wittwer, it has been named Tendergreen.

No other variety compares with Tendergreen's yield in the greenhouse during the fall and winter in Michigan. Fall plantings harvested in midwinter have topped yields of the Grand Rapids variety by 35 per cent. Tests in Lansing and Grand Rapids stores show that consumers prefer Tendergreen over Grand Rapids leaf lettuce.

Wittwer recommends seeding Tendergreen in greenhouses from September through November for harvest in January and February. For home garden use, sow in early spring and harvest the crop by June 15, since the new variety goes to seed early.

Certain growers in the Grand Rapids area have limited supplies of seed for sale now.

MUSHROOMS USED IN CANCER FIGHT

The old wives' tale that eating certain kinds of mushrooms may prevent cancer appears to have some basis in fact. Two scientists who are investigating this central European folk belief say that extracts from certain mushrooms are able to retard or stop the growth of some cancers transplanted in mice.

Ten species of mushrooms have been found to contain a substance which retards the growth of tumors, although it does not shrink or destroy them. The extracts are not yet pure enough for testing in human beings. Dr. E. H. Lucas and Joseph Stevens, of Michigan State University, reported their findings last month at the annual meeting of the American Institute of Biological Sciences in East Lansing.

Potato Men Elect Welch

MAINE—Harley D. Welch, Mapleton, was elected president of the Maine Potato Growers, Inc., at the association's annual meeting August 19. He replaces Frank W. Hussey, who helped organize the co-operative in 1932 and has served as its president for 20 years.

Welch has been a member of the board since 1937 and vice-president since 1952. Active in public affairs, he has served in the Maine legislature as both representative and senator. He is president

(*Continued on page* 19)

Know Your . . . VEGETABLE SEEDS

By VICTOR R. BOSWELL
U. S. Department of Agriculture

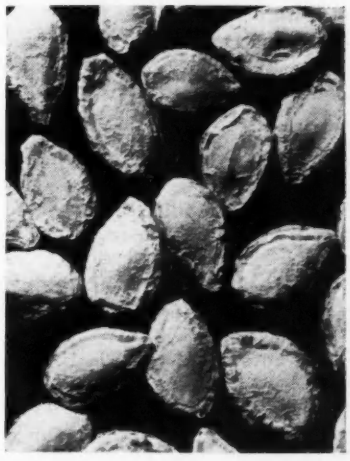
SQUASH

COMMON varieties that we call squash include three botanical species: *Cucurbita pepo*, *C. moschata*, and *C. maxima*. The same is true of pumpkins. Some varieties of a species are called squash, while others are called pumpkin. Mere custom rather than use or botanical relations determines which varieties are called squash and which ones pumpkins.

In recent years about 600 to 1,200 acres of summer squash have been grown for seed annually in this country, producing about ¼ to ½ million pounds of seed. About 550 to 750 acres of winter squash produce some 160,000 to 235,000 pounds of seed; and 200 to 300 acres of pumpkins produce 70,000 to 120,000 pounds of seed.

Most of our squash and pumpkin seed comes from California, Colorado, Oregon, New Jersey, and Michigan. Dry weather is no great advantage in the harvesting of these seeds, but the fertile irrigated soils and the relatively low humidity of the West favor high yields.

Some people still believe that squash or pumpkin will cross-fertilize watermelon and muskmelon, thereby impairing the quality of the melons. This is not true. One species of squash or pumpkin does not cross readily with another species of squash or pumpkin, but varieties within one species cross-fertilize one another very readily. The effects of this crossing show up in following generations. Since the flowers are insect-pollinated, varieties of the same species must be well-isolated from one another when grown for seed.



Freshly harvested seed is best cleaned by rapid washing with vigorous agitation. The fermentation method involves danger of discoloration or other damage to seed quality.

A Program for GROWER-CANNER RELATIONS

Here is a basic plan that when faithfully carried out works to the mutual satisfaction and profit of the grower and processor

By H. L. SEATON
Continental Can Company

DESPITE all the laborsaving devices and gadgets in our modern kitchens, when Mrs. America goes shopping today she is offered a great variety of highly palatable canned, frozen, and specially prepared foods.

Supplying this vast array of processed foods requires considerable planning and co-operative effort by all the producing and marketing agencies involved. It starts with the grower, since an adequate and dependable supply of raw products is imperative for a successful canning operation. To succeed, both the grower and canner must prosper. The grower looks to the canner as a market for his crop, while the canner is dependent upon the grower for his raw materials. Consequently, a well-organized and executed program between the two is fundamental.

In the writer's contacts with food processors and their growers over the past 25 years in the United States and Canada, the following have been observed as fundamentals for a good and workable grower-canner relation program.

Long-Range Project

1) The processor and his grower should be well aware of each other's problems and should have a good understanding of both points of view. This calls for sound agricultural policies to be carried out by both parties. The program should be a long-range project continuing from year to year and should not be related to a current or temporary situation.

2) A definite production schedule based on factory capacity, equipment, and sales outlets must be worked out in advance of the season. It must be based on realistic acreages and the known ability of the growers in the area to produce the quantities and qualities needed.

3) A fair contract for both the canner and the grower is essential. The contract should be legally correct but should be phrased as simply as possible so as to be readily understandable by both parties.

4) Crops should be contracted for only with those growers whose type of farming, soils, mechanical and labor facilities, and climate are generally suitable for the profitable production of the particular crop. This will be largely the canner's fieldman's responsibility and requires a thorough knowledge of local conditions.

5) The contracting growers should know the crop's cultural requirements in order to produce the quantities and quality demanded. They should welcome and make full use of the fieldman's advice and counsel on production and harvesting techniques.

Special Services

6) Many special services may be furnished by the company. These include: furnishing of planting and harvesting machinery; distribution of fertilizer; seeds and plants; soil testing; seed treatment; insect, disease, and weed control programs; and related services. Some growers take these services for granted and forget what they may cost the cannery. The growers should be willing to share their just portion of this expense.

7) It is imperative that the crop be harvested at its optimum maturity for canning. An intelligent and careful job at harvesttime is the climax of the whole production program. Close co-operation of the growers with the fieldman is essential in arranging the harvesting and delivery of the crop to the factory. With most products the grower returns are closely related to the quality delivered to the cannery.

8) All growers like prompt payment on the due date, and most food processors feel they gain much good will by prompt payment. When payments are made to growers, a discussion of the statement is desirable.

9) Both the management of the factory and the growers should see that the fieldman keeps a record of each grower's production as a basis for future crop improvement programs.

10) A careful analysis at the close of the season of these field records will give much information on improvements to be made in planning the next season's program.

Close Co-operation

11) Close co-operation of the field staff and the growers with local county agricultural agents, state and federal agricultural departments, colleges, experiment stations, experimental farms, soil conservation personnel, teachers and other agencies related to agriculture is necessary in our rapidly changing agricultural development.

12) Favorable local publicity is always desirable. The community is keenly interested in what the company and its growers are doing. An occasional news item for the local press or radio on some outstanding yield, some activity of the company or the industry are of general interest.

THE END

VEGETABLE QUEEN AT FAIR

Janet Cutting, of Cleveland, the 1955 Ohio Vegetable Queen, admires the vegetable display at the Ohio State Fair. The exhibit was the first large-scale exhibit prepared by Ohio vegetable and potato growers, and drew more than 42,000 visitors, mostly from urban centers. The 29-foot-long exhibit, with iced Ohio vegetables on display, drew expressions of amazement at the "fresh look" of the vegetables.—E. C. Wittmeyer.

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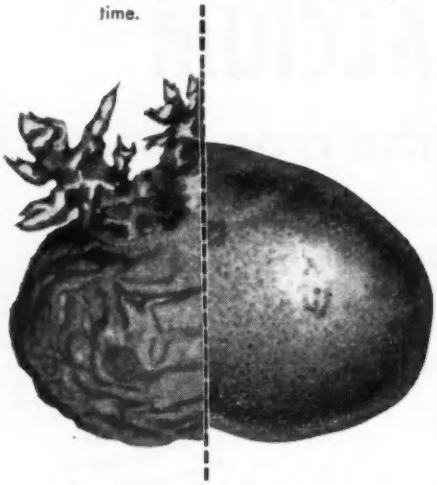

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BIBB LETTUCE

(*Continued from page 7*)

through improved cultural practices to push yields of Bibb even higher.

So far in the East and Midwest, outdoor Bibb has not attained the fine flavor and yields that greenhouse Bibb has, so it remains primarily a greenhouse product. On the West Coast there is a possibility that it can be grown almost the year around.

The first seedings are made in August in plant beds of rows an inch apart. To provide for continuous harvest of Bibb at the Davis greenhouse seedings are made almost every day during the fall and winter months. In 10 to 14 days the seedlings are transplanted to new beds and spaced two inches apart each way.

In two to three weeks the plants are ready for setting in the growing houses. They are set with a peg board, spaced 6 inches apart. It requires about three weeks to completely set a 1¾-acre greenhouse at the Davis Company plant. Harvest begins from the first plantings shortly after October 1, and continues daily until about May 15.

Sunlight is a big factor in the growing of Bibb. The more sunlight the faster it grows, other factors being equal. The heads must be watched carefully during long sunny periods and harvested when they reach optimum size, about four ounces per head. Because long days and high temperatures may cause heads to bolt, it is difficult to grow in late spring or early summer. House temperatures are held near 50° F. at night and 70° F. during the day. Watering is done once or twice a week until harvest begins. Then one heavy watering is made and no more.

Fertilization of Bibb varies from one greenhouse to another, and little is known about specific requirements. In Indianapolis, Ind., William Hohlt, a Bibb grower for 16 years, applies an 0-20-20 at the rate of 1½ tons per acre, worked in before the plants are set. Additional nitrogen is given according to plant growth. Often the fertilizer program is guided by soil and plant tests. Foliage sprays of various nutrients are applied by the Davis greenhouses with success. In general, fertilization of Bibb is about the same as that of leaf lettuce.

At the Davis greenhouse last winter a propane gas burner (Kur-Mor) was set up in one house when the crop was about half-grown to study its effects upon Bibb growth and yield. The results showed that it was quite beneficial, as 1,900 more baskets of lettuce were cut from this house than any other. The theory is that the carbon dioxide content of the atmosphere is increased due to the burning gas, thus providing more for plants to use. It may increase the efficiency of the green leaf.

The 12-quart baskets of Bibb are weighed at Davis packing station to insure proper weight and then wet down with cold water, as shown above. Printed paper band laid over the heads before slatted lid is fastened serves to protect as well as identify the product.

In harvesting Bibb the general practice is to cut the heads and pack them in 12-quart shipping baskets right in the beds. The baskets hold from 16 to 24 heads, depending upon size, and carry a net weight of 5 pounds. Shipment is made that day.

Marketing Bibb presents some problems that are on the way to being solved. Bibb is a difficult product to prepackage because it often develops a slime and spoils quickly unless it is refrigerated and moved fast. A few Cleveland growers have successfully marketed Bibb by keeping the packaged lettuce under constant refrigeration and moving it quickly. Heads are quite brittle and if too much pressure is applied to baskets, they may reach destination in unsalable condition.

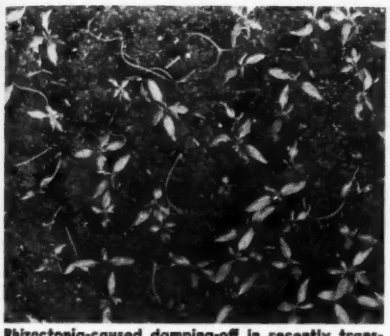
Few markets so far have taken single large loads of Bibb, so it is usually shipped with tomatoes or cucumbers. Often this does not make proper icing or refrigeration of the Bibb possible.

Bibb is a little more costly to produce than leaf lettuce but the returns are greater. Last season the average price ranged between $2 and $3 per 5-pound basket.

The big markets that have become interested in Bibb lettuce are Chicago, Detroit, Cincinnati, St. Louis, and Cleveland. Others are following. The spirit of Bibb growers has probably had much to do with the expanding market. Don Dalbey, sales manager for the J. W. Davis Co., introduces Bibb in a new market by putting a few baskets of Bibb on a truckload of tomatoes or cucumbers. The baskets are passed around to dealers, and Bibb is soon established in the new market. THE END

New Control For Damping-off

DAMPING-OFF, the number one killer of young seedling vegetable plants, shows itself as a sudden wilting and rotting of the roots.



Rhizoctonia-caused damping-off in recently transplanted tomato seedlings is characterized by sudden wilting. Fungus thrives in cool, moist weather, spreads quickly through soil.

It is most frequent and severe in vegetable and flower seedlings grown under glass. In heavily-infected soils the disease may destroy new roots before the seedlings emerge, causing a total loss.

A major agent of damping-off is Rhizoctonia, a fungus which flourishes in cool, moist weather and will quickly spread through the soil, causing losses in fields and gardens, and even attacking mature plants.

Damping-off may be controlled by seed treatment, spraying the young plants, and use of disease-free composts (AMERICAN VEGETABLE GROWER, March, 1955, page 26).

Work at the Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station shows promise for oxyquinoline compounds in damping-off control. Acting as a chemotherapeutant, these compounds may give erratic results if the water used is too hard. However, many growers and nurserymen are getting good results with them.

One Connecticut grower of greenhouse tomatoes soaks the soil just before planting the seeds, again after seedlings emerge, and once more when plants are 6 to 8 inches high. A southern New Jersey truck farmer protects his lettuce seedlings as they break through the soil, and one treatment gives good results.

For further information write the Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station, New Haven, Conn., and the Midvale Chemical Co., Lodi, N.J., manufacturers of Sunox, an oxyquinoline compound for control of root rot, damping-off, brown patch of lawns, and fusarium wilt of carnations.

This New Jersey truck farmer protects his lettuce seedlings from damping-off with a single application of Sunox when plants break through soil.

Home Storage Tips

VEGETABLE growers planning to store their produce at home should get a copy of the new USDA bulletin, "Home Storage of Vegetables and Fruits." Farmers' Bulletin No. 1939 discusses storage facilities such as outbuildings, home basements, outdoor cellars and pits for each of the commonly grown vegetables and fruits. For a free copy, write to the Office of Information, USDA, Washington 25, D.C.

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- **ES-MIN-EL** — The essential mineral elements. Es-Min-El contains Manganese, Copper, Iron, Zinc, Boron and Magnesium . . . all essential to healthy, productive soil. Fruits and vegetables rich in vitamins cannot grow in soil poor in minerals. For soil application.

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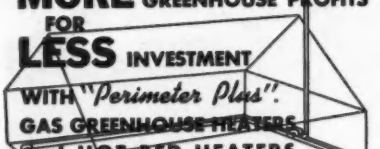

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STATEMENT REQUIRED BY THE ACT OF AUGUST 24, 1912, AS AMENDED BY THE ACTS OF MARCH 3, 1933, AND JULY 2, 1946 (Title 39, United States Code, Section 233) SHOWING THE OWNERSHIP, MANAGEMENT, AND CIRCULATION OF

AMERICAN VEGETABLE GROWER, published monthly at Willoughby, Ohio, for October 1, 1955.

1. The names and addresses of the publisher, editor, managing editor, and business managers are: Publisher, American Fruit Grower Publishing Company, Willoughby, Ohio; Editor, R. T. Meister, Willoughby, Ohio; Managing Editor, None; Business Manager, Edward L. Meister, Willoughby, Ohio.

2. The owner is: (If owned by a corporation, its name and address must be stated and also immediately thereunder the names and addresses of stockholders owning or holding 1 percent or more of total amount of stock. If not owned by a corporation, the names and addresses of the individual owners must be given. If owned by a partnership or other unincorporated firm, its name and address, as well as that of each individual member, must be given.)

American Fruit Grower Publishing Company, Willoughby, Ohio; E. G. K. Meister, Willoughby, Ohio; Elsie K. Meister, Willoughby, Ohio; Edward L. Meister, Willoughby, Ohio; R. T. Meister, Willoughby, Ohio.

3. The known bondholders, mortgagees, and other security holders owning or holding 1 percent or more of total amount of bonds, mortgages, or other securities are: (If there are none, so state.) None.

4. Paragraphs 2 and 3 include, in cases where the stockholder or security holder appears upon the books of the company as trustee or in any other fiduciary relation, the names of the person or corporation for whom each trustee is acting; also the statements in the two paragraphs show the affiant's full knowledge and belief as to the circumstances and conditions under which stockholders and security holders who do not appear upon the books of the company as trustees, hold stock and securities in a capacity other than that of a bona fide owner.

EDWARD L. MEISTER,
Businecss Manager

Sworn to and subscribed before me this 18th day of August, 1955.

(Seal) E. P. JEANGUENAT, Notary Public.
(My commission expires Sept. 17, 1956)

NJVGA PROJECTS NOW INCLUDE CANNING CROPS

National Canners Association sponsors new program

THE National Canners Association announces that it will sponsor a Farm Youth Program for boys and girls in the production and marketing of canning crops. The project will be administered by the National Junior Vegetable Growers Association, and will include fruits as well as vegetables.

Prof. Grant B. Snyder, head of the Department of Olericulture, University of Massachusetts, Amherst, Mass., who serves as NJVGA advisor, will supervise the program. He will work with Dr. Charles H. Mahoney, director of NCA's Raw Products Research Bureau. The project will be conducted at local, state, and national levels, in the same manner as other NJVGA projects.

Deep in discussion of the new canning crops project are, from left: Dr. Charles H. Mahoney, director, NCA's Raw Products Research Bureau, Washington, D.C.; Prof. Grant B. Snyder, adult advisor and chairman of board, NJVGA, Amherst, Mass.; and George Anderson, Dudley-Anderson-Yutzy, NCA's consumer and trade relations counsel.

The program will cover a two-year period. The pilot project for 1955 will be conducted in California, Indiana, and New York. In 1956 all states where canning crops are grown or processed will be included. The contest will be organized on local, state, and national levels. Participants must be between the ages of 14 and 21.

1955 Project Awards

New and exciting awards will be made this year to junior growers participating in the projects sponsored by NJVGA. Beautiful watches will be given to national and regional winners in the Production and Marketing Contest, to members of the top eight teams in the Demonstration Contest, and to the top five in the Judging Contest.

Other winners on national and state levels will receive gold, silver, and bronze NJVGA pins and rosette and regular ribbons, depending on their placement.

The Olin Mathieson Chemical Co., of Baltimore, Md., will also award fertilizer and other prizes in the Production and Marketing Contest.

Winners in the processing section of the P & M Contest will also be recognized with appropriate awards. A trip to the annual meeting of the National Canners Association in Atlantic City awaits the junior grower submitting the best report this year in the NCA experimental project.

State Activities

Good examples of NJVGA activity across the nation include those which recently took place in New York and Mississippi.

In New York the State Junior Potato and Vegetable Growers Association organized a food concession with their advisor, Dr. Ray Sheldrake, Jr., in connection with the annual Vegetable Grower's Field Day on August 13 at Ithaca, N.Y. Purpose of the concession: To raise money to make possible the participation of judging and demonstration teams at the National Convention in New Orleans. The teams expect to travel by plane.

Mississippi chapter of NJVGA recently elected these officers: Seated, from left—Don Taylor, Hinds County, president; Carey Campbell, Forrest County, vice-president; Ellouise Fair, Quitman County, secretary-treasurer. Standing, from left: Directors: Sarah Grantham, Forrest County, southeast district; Alice Skinner, Warren County, southwest district; and Martha Hawkins, Monroe County, northeast district. Not shown is Director Marion Young, Quitman County, who represents northwest district.

A bi-monthly page for the younger generation of vegetable growers and their national organization, the National Junior Vegetable Growers Association. For information write Grant B. Snyder, French Hall, University of Massachusetts, Amherst, Mass.

In Mississippi, participation and interest in the State Vegetable Judging and Demonstration Contests held during the recent 4-H Club Congress was extremely high.

The 125 junior growers who attended the recent annual meeting of the Mississippi chapter of NJVGA elected the new officers for 1955-56 shown in accompanying photo.

TENTATIVE PROGRAM

21ST ANNUAL CONVENTION NATIONAL JUNIOR VEGETABLE GROWERS ASSOCIATION

New Orleans, La.—Jung Hotel

Sunday through Thursday, December 11-15, 1955
Registration—Mezzanine, Jung Hotel

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 11

7:30—10:00 P.M.—Informal get-acquainted party—Tulane Room, Jung Hotel. Meeting of NJVGA Executive and Advisory Committees.

MONDAY, DECEMBER 12

7:00—8:30 A.M.—Get-together Breakfast—Tulane Room, Jung Hotel. (Courtesy National Canners Association).

8:30 A.M.—6:30 P.M.—Busses will leave Jung Hotel for all-day tour along west side of Mississippi River, going as far south as Buras. Points of special interest will include citrus section, Freeport Sulphur mines, shrimp industry, sea trains, experimental station, etc.

1:30 P.M.—Annual meeting of Board of Trustees of NJVG Foundation Inc.—Jung Hotel.

7:30 P.M.—Entertainment and square dancing—Tulane Room, Jung Hotel.

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 13

7:30 A.M.—Busses will leave Jung Hotel for tour of New Orleans to include City Park, Lake Ponchartrain, Metarie Cemetery, Tulane University, Sugar Bowl Stadium, Audubon Park, Banana Docks, French Market, and French Quarter. A box lunch will be served at Audubon Park.

2:30—4:30 P.M.—Two-hour boat ride down Mississippi River on board steamship *President*.

6:00—8:00 P.M.—State group meetings and dinners.

8:30—11:00 P.M.—Meeting of Adult Leaders and Coaches. Square dancing — Tulane Room, Jung Hotel.

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 14

7:30 A.M.—5:00 P.M.—National Demonstration Contest—Jung Hotel.

1:30—6:00 P.M.—Group tours will be arranged to visit near-by points of interest including International Trade Mart, the Cabildo, St. Louis Cathedral, French Quarter, historic houses, churches, and museums.

7:00—8:00 P.M.—Annual business meeting of NJVGA—Jung Hotel.

8:00—11:00 P.M.—Square dancing—Jung Hotel.

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 15

7:30—11:00 A.M.—National Judging, Grading and Identification Contest.

12:30—3:30 P.M.—Finals—National Demonstration Contest—Jung Hotel.

3:30—6:00 P.M.—Sightseeing and shopping.

6:45 P.M.—21st annual banquet of NJVGA—Tulane Room, Jung Hotel. Banquet will feature good food, wholesome entertainment, and presentation of awards to winners in projects sponsored by NJVGA.

Convention Organization

Convention Director: Grant B. Snyder, 103 French Hall, Univ. of Mass., Amherst, Mass.

General Committee: Joseph Montelaro (Chairman), Louisiana State University Extension Service, Baton Rouge, La. Ralph Brown, Herbert Spencer, Miss Maida Tabor, John A. Cox, M. McEachern, Miss Yvonne F. Pavy, Miss Esther Cooley, Miss Eliza C. Macatee, Miss Winona Chauffee, Miss LaNelle G. Long, and Lynn Pesson.

Demonstration Contest: Donald Spurlock, (Chairman), Louisiana State University, Extension Service, Baton Rouge, La.

Judging, Grading and Identification Contest: Dale Schinbeckler (Chairman), Kendallville, Indiana.

Hotel Reservations: Emmett J. Bieger, Director of Sales, Jung Hotel, New Orleans 12, La.

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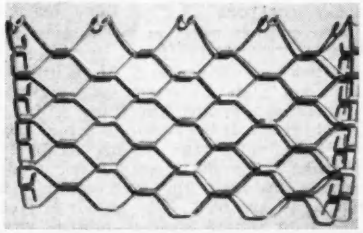

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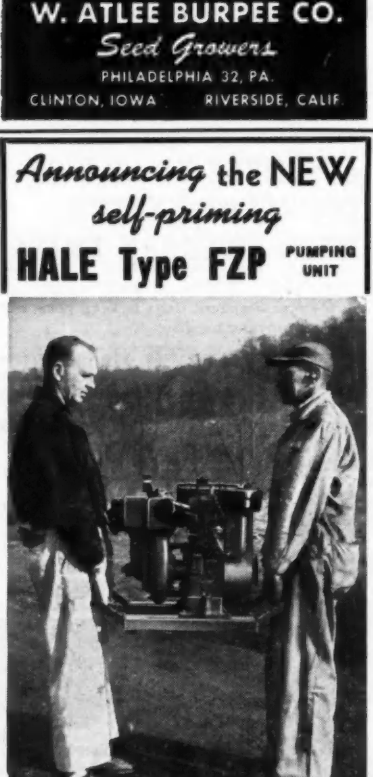

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Answering Your QUESTIONS

Don't let your questions go unanswered. Whether large or small, send them with a three-cent stamp for early reply to Questions Editor, AMERICAN VEGETABLE GROWER, Willoughby, Ohio.

CUCUMBER BEETLE

How can I control the cucumber beetle?—*Kentucky.*

Both the cucumber beetle and the cucumber beetle worm are killed by dusting, always in the middles of the hills. John S. Gardner, of the University of Kentucky, recommends 3 per cent purified DDT with 5 per cent copper (for mildew). It is important to use purified DDT. If you cannot get purified DDT dust, use 5 per cent methoxychlor dust. A sifter may be used, but a duster is better. Dust that falls on leaves is wasted. Each time 10 pounds is needed per acre. Apply at bases of plants.

The first dusting is given when the first plants emerge. The second dusting follows at 3 to 5 days, when all the soil cracks are open for the dust to fall into them. Then 3 to 5 dustings are given, a week apart.

EARLY TOMATOES

Have you information on how to grow early tomatoes?—*Massachusetts.*

It has been shown by S. H. Wittwer of Michigan State University that nighttime temperatures greatly affect the setting of tomato fruits. It is possible to predict when the price will break in any locality by knowing when the nighttime temperature became favorable for fruit setting (between 59° and 68°). The periods of favorable fruit setting weather precede ripening by 48 to 50 days. How to get fruit to set despite unfavorable nighttime temperatures, as outlined by Dr. Wittwer in his article in the May, 1955, AMERICAN VEGETABLE GROWER, is being sent to our reader.

SWEET CORN WILT

How cold must our winter be to avoid outbreak of sweet corn wilt next year?—*Illinois.*

If the sum of the average temperatures for December, January, and February falls below 90°, severe wilt outbreaks are unlikely. If it falls above 90°, it would be wise to plan special spray application next spring to control the corn flea beetle which spreads the wilt disease.

WEED CONTROL

What can I use to control weeds in my squash vines?—*Pennsylvania.*

For varieties Zucchini, Boston Marrow, Delicious, Buttercup, and Sweet Cheese, spray 2 to 4 pounds per acre of Alanap-1, made by the Naugatuck Chemical Div., U.S. Rubber Co., Naugatuck, Conn. Use immediately after planting, following directions on the container.

WATERMELON VARIETIES

What varieties of watermelon should I grow?—*Kentucky.*

This depends somewhat on your market. Stone Mountain moves well, but for those who want smaller slices Kleckley Sweet is recommended. A variety not so well known as these is Congo. It is of very fine flavor, and men who grow it say their customers ask for more. John S. Gardner of the University of Kentucky also recommends Irish Grey, or Thurmond Grey, a dry weather resister. Dixie Queen is good and is resistant to watermelon wilt, but you should not try it unless you have grown watermelons in the same land a long time. All of these except Stone Mountain are stout melons and stand shipping well.

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VEGETABLE PRODUCTION AND MARKETING *by Paul Work and John Carew.* General chapters in the new second edition of this practical book cover culture, harvesting, storage, and marketing. Individual chapters cover the major crops including potatoes.
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INSECTS *by H. S. Zim and C. Cottam.* A handy guide to familiar American insects. Beautiful drawings of 225 insects in full color.
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Books sent postpaid on receipt of check or money order.

AMERICAN VEGETABLE GROWER

Willoughby, Ohio

STATE NEWS

(*Continued from page* 11)

of Aroostook National Farm Loan Association.

Hussey is well-known for his work in co-operatives, having served as president of the National Council of Farmer Co-operatives, a director of the American Institute of Co-operation, and vice-president of American National Foods, Inc.

Extension Director Dies

KANSAS—Dean L. C. Williams, director of the state extension service for eight years, died recently at the age of 63. Dean Williams was well-known to vegetable growers, having worked with them as extension horticulturist for 20 years.—*W. G. Amstein, Sec'y, Manhattan.*

FLOOD TAKES GROWER'S LIFE

A Pennsylvania vegetable grower lost his life in an act of heroism after saving two women in a stalled automobile during the August floods. A wall of water suddenly rushed down the little valley, sweeping H. D. Fredericks, of Conyngham, Lucerne County, to his death.

Secretary of Agriculture Benson has declared 53 counties in Connecticut, New Jersey, Maryland, Massachusetts, New York, and Pennsylvania as areas where the Farm Home Administration may make emergency loans to farmers whose crops were damaged or destroyed by hurricanes or floods.

These include all counties in New Jersey and Connecticut, and the following:

***Maryland:* Anne Arundel, Calver, Charles, Prince Georges, and St. Marys.**

***Massachusetts:* Berkshire, Franklin, Hampden, Hampshire, Middlesex, and Worcester.**

***New York:* Columbia, Dutchess, Orange, Putnam, Rockland, Sullivan, and Ulster.**

***Pennsylvania:* Bucks, Carbon, Lackawanna, Lehigh, Luzerne, Monroe, Montgomery, Northampton, Pike, Schuylkill, and Wayne.**

Yambassadors Spread Message

OHIO—Louisiana Yambilee Queen Grace Delcambre, assisted by Mr. Yam himself, is shown in the photo below, presenting Russell Swiler, general manager of Cleveland's big Northern Ohio Food Terminal, with a certificate proclaiming him an honorary "Yambassador."

Swiler was host to 75 Louisiana yam growers and their wives who made a good will tour to Cleveland in August. Each year these Yambassadors visit a different market to spread the message of the sweetpotato's goodness. Ninety per cent of the sweetpotatoes bought at Cleveland come from Louisiana. The identity of Mr. Yam, in case you're wondering, was kept secret until the annual Louisiana Yambilee Festival at Opelousas October 4 to 6, over which Queen Grace reigned.

Louisiana is the nation's top producer and shipper of sweetpotatoes, nicknamed "yams." (The true yam is a tropical vegetable.) The Yambassador tours are sponsored by the Louisiana Sweet Potato Commission, whose program is financed by a 2 cents per bushel assessment. The organization operates on an annual budget which averages $100,000, according to J. J. Arceneaux, director, and is a division of the Louisiana Department of Agriculture.

Dave L. Pearce, commissioner, accompanied the group on the Cleveland tour.

Russell Swiler, terminal manager, Louisiana Yambilee Queen Grace Delcambre, and Mr. Yam.

A "Fresh" Start

IOWA—National Vegetable Week got off to a "fresh" start in Iowa as state Vegetable Queen Esther Bizek presented Gov. Leo A. Hoegh with a basket of vegetables grown by her family—without hired help—on their 30-acre irrigated farm near Cedar Rapids. The 16-year-old daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Lester Bizek told the governor she should have been home helping her parents pick tomatoes—and the thermometer stood at 102 in the shade.

Gov. Hoegh and Queen Esther.

At the opening of the sweet corn season Esther sold 350 dozen ears the first day—and got 65 cents a dozen at the family booth in the Cedar Rapids farmers' market. The Bizek corn was sprayed twice a week with DDT and there were practically no worms. Cedar Rapids leads the state in both local production and local consumption of fresh vegetables.

SWEETPOTATO TEST PLOTS

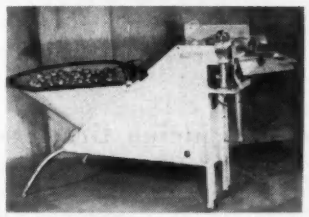
Mississippi vegetable growers get a look at new sweetpotato varieties in test plots at the U.S. Horticultural Field Station near Meridian. M. T. Deonier, USDA horticulturist, explains the sweetpotato breeding, selecting and variety-testing program as he leads tour of plots during station's summer Field Day.—Chesley Hines, Mississippi State College.

Shipping Pink Tomatoes

ILLINOIS—Northern growers of early tomatoes can expect more competition from the South and Far West next year. Shipment of vine-ripened (pink) tomatoes from southern states was on the increase this year. Some large Florida packing houses are now installing or have installed lines for bulk handling of pinks. At least one Texas shipper is doing the same. California shippers may go into the deal this coming season.—*Norman F. Oebker, Veg. Crops Spec., Urbana, Ill.*

TRESCOTT

AUTOBAGGER



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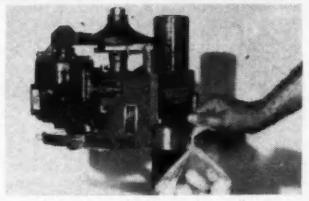

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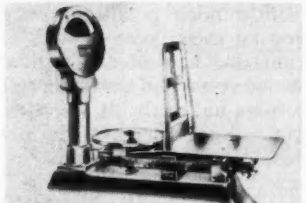

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NEW FOR YOU

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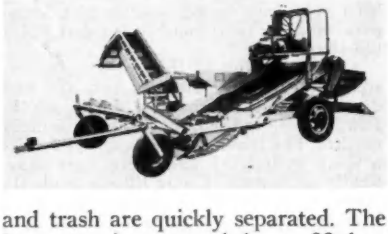
Michigan Melon Growers Report

Melon growers in Michigan, by adopting a new melon box which gives greater protection to distant as well as local markets, have cut losses drastically and increased their profits. The new box provides proper ventilation and protection from bruising. Easily assembled without special tools, it appeals to truckers and receivers because it handles well. Write E. O. Goll, American Box Board Co., 470 Market St., S.W., Grand Rapids 2, Mich., for full information.

Profitable Potato Digging with New Harvester

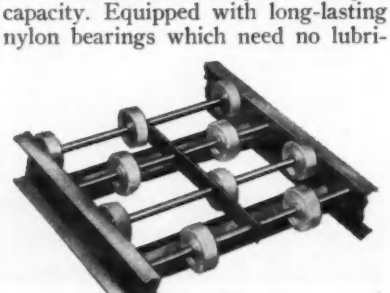
Profit-minded potato growers are harvesting their potatoes with a new and amazing harvester. The new machine harvests two rows directly or four rows indirectly. It operates well in wet soil and increases the acreage harvested with no additions in personnel. Digging depth and discharge height are hydraulically controlled from a central station. An elevating conveyor passes the dug potatoes to a rear cross conveyor, where stones



and trash are quickly separated. The harvester is powered by a 22 h.p. Wisconsin engine. Write Art Gerard, John Bean Div., Food Machinery & Chemical Corp., Lansing 4, Mich.

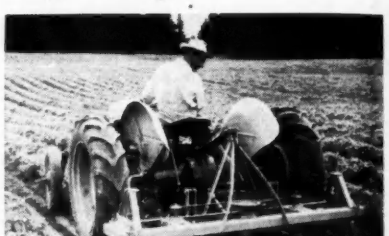
All-Weather Conveyor

A conveyor that can be left outdoors has many advantages for the grower. Just such a machine has been built for the vegetable grower, and besides all-weather use, this new conveyor is 20 per cent lighter than all-aluminum wheel conveyors of equal capacity. Equipped with long-lasting nylon bearings which need no lubri-



cation and are impervious to moisture and cold, the new machine has already found many important uses in the field and packing shed. It can be purchased with either an aluminum or steel frame, and is made in widths from 12 to 24½ inches. This new field conveyor is worth knowing about. Write Bob Metzgar, Metzgar Conveyor Co., 401 Douglas St. N.W., Grand Rapids, Mich.

90% Savings



Vegetable growers are reporting phenomenal savings with a new oscillating weeder. In some cases this new implement has saved 90 per cent of hand labor costs. The new machine not only weeds but cultivates as well. The Power Weeder is equipped with a variable speed control so that the grower can adjust the speed for the weeding operation to be done. A grower in Salem, Ore., says that the machine cultivates and weeds one acre per hour at a savings of between $50 to $100 per acre per year. On this basis the machine paid for itself in one week. The machine is sturdily built and for what it does is priced low. Why not write Glenn Leininger, Armor Farm Implement Co., 250 Columbia St., Vancouver, Wash., for full details.

All-Purpose Sprayer Is Boon to Growers

Growers have long wanted an all-purpose vegetable sprayer capable of mixing all soluble and liquid materials. This new sprayer is low in cost and built to do a multitude of spraying jobs. Equipped with adjustable spray booms, it covers up to 50 acres a day. Five "hydra-hose" agitators keep all materials constantly in suspension for uniform spreading.

The sprayer is equipped with the famous Gorman-Rupp pump and is made in two sizes of 500 or 1,000 gallons capacity. Literature and specifications on the Agi-Sprayer are easily yours. Just write Clifford H. Snyder at Nutritional Concentrates, Inc., New Lexington, Ohio.

CALENDAR OF COMING MEETINGS AND EXHIBITS

Oct. 9-11—Produce Packaging Association, 1955 Convention and Exposition, Conrad Hilton Hotel, Chicago, Assn. hdqtrs: 500 Fifth Ave., New York 36, N.Y.

Oct. 10—South Carolina Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Association annual convention, Hotel Wade Hampton, Columbia.—B. I. Raybon, sec'y, Unit 55B, State Farmers Market, Columbia.

Oct. 25-28—Northern Indiana Muck Crops Show and educational program, Walkerton.—F. C. Gaylord, Sec'y, Dept. of Hort., Lafayette.

Nov. 1-3—Florida State Horticultural Society 67th annual meeting, Fort Harrison Hotel, Clearwater.—Ernest L. Spencer, Sec'y, Bradenton.

Nov. 2-3—Wisconsin State Potato Show, Antigo High School Gym and Civic Center, Antigo.—Harold R. Simons, Exec. Sec'y, Fidelity Bank Bldg., Antigo.

Nov. 8—Greenhouse Section meeting, Indiana State Vegetable Growers Association, Horticultural Bldg., Purdue University, Lafayette.—F. C. Gaylord, Sec'y, Dept. of Hort., Lafayette.

Nov. 16-18—Western Growers Association convention, Westward Ho Hotel, Phoenix, Ariz. Association headquarters: 606 S. Hill St., Los Angeles 14, Calif.

Nov. 29-30—Illinois State Vegetable Growers Association annual meeting, Des Plaines.—Arthur Selme, Sec'y, R. 2, Rock Falls.

Dec. 1-2—Iowa State Vegetable Growers' Association 42nd annual convention, Hotel Hanford, Mason City.—C. L. Finch, Sec'y, Ames.

Dec. 1-2—Kansas State Horticultural Society annual meeting, Kansas State College, Manhattan.—W. G. Amstein, Sec'y, Manhattan.

Dec. 5-8—Vegetable Growers Association of America 47th annual convention, Sheraton-Park Hotel, Washington, D. C.—Joseph S. Shelly, Sec'y, 528 Mills Bldg., Washington 6, D. C.

Dec. 11-15—National Junior Vegetable Growers Association, 21st annual convention, Jung Hotel, New Orleans, La.—Prof. Grant B. Snyder, 103 French Hall, U. of Massachusetts, Amherst.

Jan. 30-Feb. 2, 1956—United Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Association annual meeting, Hotel Roosevelt, New Orleans, La. Association headquarters: 777 14th St., N. W., Washington, D.C.

Feb. 14-16—Ohio Vegetable and Potato Growers Association 41st annual meeting, Hotel Cleveland, Cleveland.—E. C. Wittmeyer, Sec'y, Horticultural Bldg., Columbus 10.

Mar. 8-10—Watermelon Growers and Distributors Association annual convention, Roosevelt Hotel, New Orleans.—J. J. Parrish, Sec'y, Adel, Ga.

NEW HIGH QUALITY PEA

EMERALD, a new variety of English pea, has been released by the Florida Agricultural Experiment Station and USDA. Around 500 pounds of seed were available to seedsmen this spring, and more is being produced in the Northwest this summer.

Emerald proved its high quality in four years of competition in the southern co-operative English pea trials. It is recommended for growers in Alabama, Georgia, Kentucky, North and South Carolina, and Florida, by the experiment stations in these states.

Emerald has a considerable degree of hardiness to cold and is also tolerant of heat. The variety is similar to Premium Gem and Wando. Yields are good.

Vines are dwarf. Pods are 3 to 3½ inches long, and well-filled with 8 or 9 peas and no skips. Peas are medium green, wrinkled, very sweet, and of the highest quality.

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KEEPING YOUTH INTERESTED

NO BUSINESS or industry lasts for long without interesting the younger generation in its methods, its achievements, and its rewards. Vegetable growing is no different in this respect from any other walk of life. Its vital, vulnerable spot is its attractiveness to young men. If what we are doing does not appeal to them, then we may be the losers.

This is not as easy or simple a problem as it may seem on the surface. We know youth is attracted to almost every phase of our mechanical and power age. A boy just can't help liking to drive a tractor and operate the many implements associated with it. He is prompted on every hand to be interested in tools and gadgets. It's as much a part of his life as reading or walking, and cannot be evaded even if he wants to.

But youth is interested, we hope, in more than the technical part of its environment. The purpose or the reasons for mechanical development must be understood. Few gadgets are invented just to please the fancies of the inventor. Each is to serve a purpose; all, together, promote what we call a better standard of living.

Our vegetable industry has a great deal of mechanical interest for the young farmer, as has been seen recently in the pages of this magazine. Does our industry have the same amount of interest to the young man who wants to make a good living, develop his skills, and advance in managerial capacities?

There was a time, not too long ago, when plenty of hard work, physical work, put a young man ahead in the farming game. This is less true today than a quarter century ago. Now the young man who gets ahead the fastest is the one who can apply technical skills wisely and consistently. He is not an idle button pusher, but is active every minute of his waking hours. His compensation is twofold. He receives a money return, and he also receives a return in satisfaction of a job well done.

The money return from vegetable growing is, as in other kinds of farming, indefinite from year to year, variable from month to month. One must have an enduring faith to become a successful vegetable grower. When income is low, he must have faith that another month or another year will bring him greater monetary rewards for his labor and his applied skills.

A young man just starting in the vegetable game does not always have such strength of faith, either in himself or in his future. The senior partners in this business have lots to pass on to those just beginning. They can pass on not only the technical advances and advantages, but also the spirit of hope. Profound hope and faith are as much tools in our business as tractors or harvesters or electric current. We may not be able to buy food and shelter with hope and faith, but these can lead us to finding the means with which to buy them.

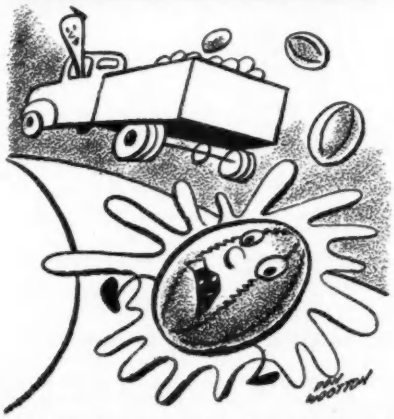
These "tools" we can pass on to young growers when we may not have real tools to give them, and they will sooner or later come in full view of their importance to successful farming and happy living.

Youth is interested in adventure, in attempting new feats of skill in its craft or profession. Show us a young vegetable grower who is performing an outstanding production and marketing job, and he will be doing just that. It never fails. The young grower is looking for a chance, an opportunity to apply himself in full strength for a better and more profitable vegetable business. He wants a good standard of living, and to be able to procure it from his applied skills and his toil. He is not looking for gifts. He looks at the business world's great challenges through clear glasses, accepts them and girds himself to meet them.

If the vegetable industry is to remain strong, attractive and sound, then there is no way to leave youth out of it. Wisdom and experience of the past is accepted, but there must always be new steps for it to guide. The young men need a go-ahead signal from the "mature years," a shot in their arm of faith, and a polishing of their mantle of hope. We can all help do these things. Our rewards will be commensurate with how much we give of ourselves to those younger minds and bodies who follow in our footsteps and thought paths.

We like what youth is doing for itself, with some mature guidance. The National Junior Vegetable Growers Association bears out our hope in the future. What these young people do and how they do it on their farms is the final indicator of just where we are heading. Let's keep on giving them a good boost.

VEGETABLE CONVENTION



"Gosh, maybe I have something here! I always did want to know how to make a squash out of a melon."

HIGHER YIELDS WITH GREEN MANURES

GREEN manure rotations gave higher vegetable yields in experiments by H. G. M. Jacobson and Dr. C. L. Swanson, soil specialists at the Connecticut Agricultural Experiment Station.

They grew spinach and cabbage continuously and also in rotation with such crops as alfalfa, timothy, and clover. Half of each green manure plot was mown twice and removed as hay, and half was unmowed and plowed under the following spring.

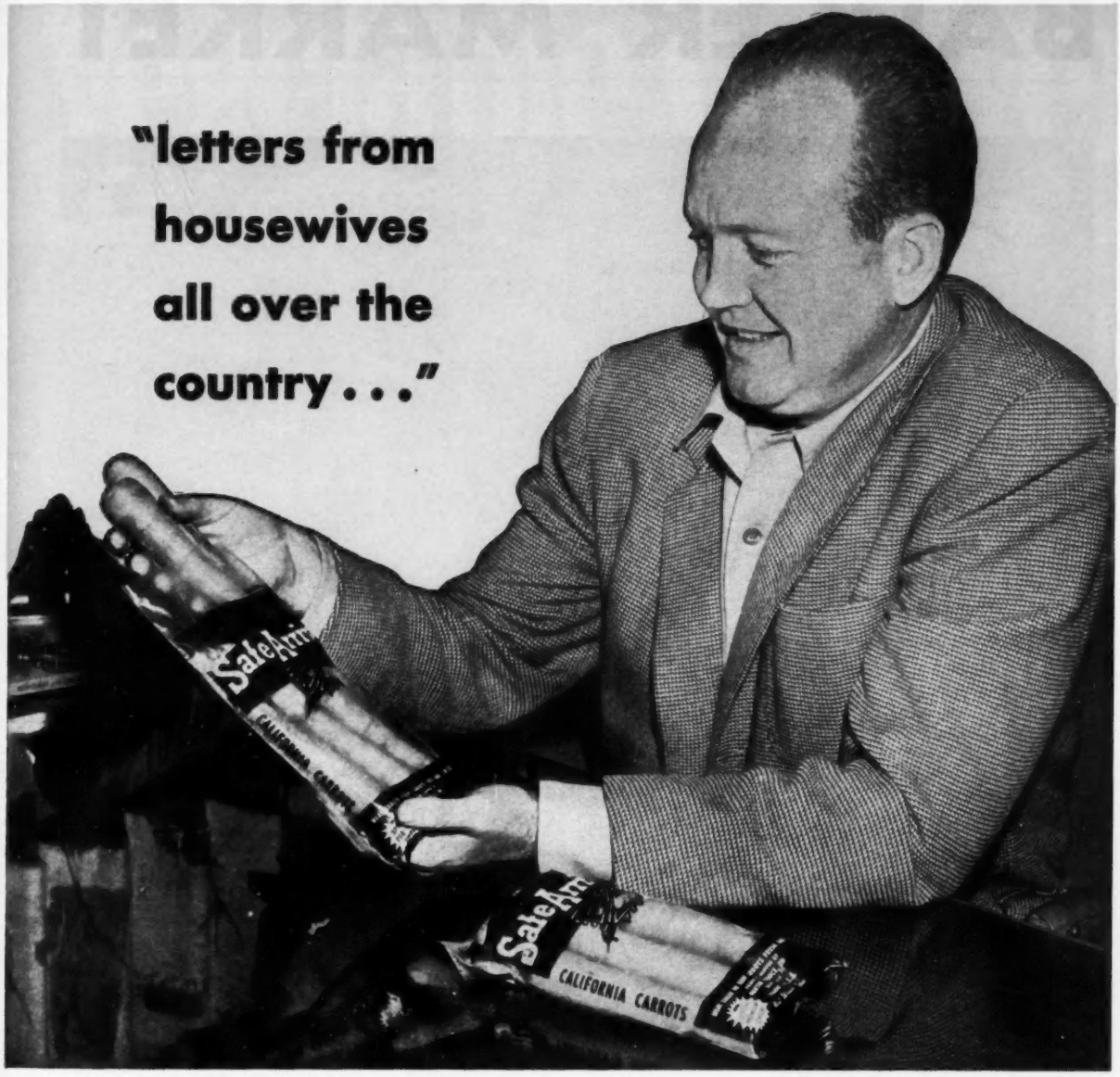
Spinach grown in rotation gave 52 per cent greater yields than spinach grown on land cropped continuously to vegetables.

Cabbage grown after spinach produced biggest yields after the green manure crop was plowed under. Where it was mown and carried away as hay, crops were not so high, but still larger than where vegetables were grown continuously.

Coming Next Month

- Modern Trends in Potato Storage Construction
- Vegetable Areas of America — The Phoenix-Yuma Area of Arizona
- Beware of Soil Compaction
- Vegetables Made to Order
- VGAA Convention Preview

WRITTEN PROOF it pays to package in film made of BAKELITE Polyethylene



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